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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Commission on Transnational Corporations urges observance of environmental standards; calls for report on corrupt practices in international business.

- Secretary-General appoints new acting Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa.

- Heads of World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund urge delegates at forty-fourth World Health Assembly to work for swift follow-up action to 1990 World Summit for Children.

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The Commission on Transnational Corporations has urged such corporations to observe international environmental standards and industry-agreed guidelines in their activities.

The Commission took that action as it concluded its current session last night with the consensus approval of a resolution containing its recommendations for the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1-12 June 1992).

It asked through the resolution that the Secretary-General prepare a report on the latest trends in foreign direct investment in the world economy. It reaffirmed the need to encourage and mobilize industrial enterprises, including transnational corporations, to commit themselves to environmental protection in all countries. It also reaffirmed the need to stress the positive role such corporations could play in environmental protection.

Also approved by consensus was a resolution requesting that the Secretary-General report on United Nations efforts to address the issue of corrupt practices in international business transactions.

During its session, which began on 10 April, the Commission gave high priority to transnational corporations and environmental issues and recent

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trends relating to transnational corporations and international economic relations. It focused on the policy implications of foreign direct investment, transnational corporations in "post-apartheid" South Africa and strengthening the negotiating capacity of developing countries in their dealings with transnational corporations.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar today appointed Issa Diallo as Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), at the Assistant Secretary-General level, with effect from 1 August 1991 when Adebayo Adejeji will retire from the United Nations.

Mr. Diallo, a national of Guinea, has been Special Assistant to the Secretary-General since 1986. He served as Director in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General from 1985 to 1986.

Mr. Diallo has also been Assistant Director of Training at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). From 1963 to 1968, he was Deputy Director-General in the Economic and Technical Cooperation Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guinea.

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The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), James P. Grant, have urged delegates at the forty-fourth World Health Assembly in Geneva to work swiftly to maintain the momentum for improving the health of children and their mothers generated by last year's World Summit for Children (New York, 29-30 September 1990).

The Summit adopted the "World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children" and a related "Plan of Action" containing specific goals for the health of women and children. The Declaration followed closely on the entry into force in September last year of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In his address to the Health Assembly, Dr. Nakajima said the challenge now was to use the stimulus provided by the Summit to support countries in strengthening their health infrastructure, so as to achieve the goals it sets forth.

Mr. Grant, in his address, said that 1990 -- with the World Summit -- had seen the endorsement at the highest possible level of the principle that children's health and other essential needs should be elevated to the top rank of society's priorities and given "first call" in the allocation of resources, in bad times as well as in good times.

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